

## CLAIMS

### WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method comprising:  
converting, at an enterprise gateway server, a plurality of data requests from remote communication devices for messaging and collaboration data into a single higher level request and transmitting the higher level request over a data network;  
receiving the higher level request over the data network at a remote gateway server and converting the higher level request to the plurality of data requests; and  
responding to the plurality of data requests converted by the remote gateway server at a message server connected to the remote gateway server through a private data network, the message server hosting the messaging and collaboration data, the private data network connecting the messaging server to the remote gateway server more efficiently than the data network that connects the enterprise gateway server to the remote gateway server, and the messaging server providing the messaging and collaboration data to the remote gateway server in response to receiving the plurality of data requests.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data network is a public network.
3. The method of claim 2, further including encrypting the data transmitted over the public network so as to form a virtual private network (VPN) between the enterprise gateway server and the remote gateway server.
4. The method of claim 3, further including forming the VPN with a Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol (PPTP) connection.
5. The method of claim 3, further including forming the VPN using the Internet Protocol Security (IPSEC) standard.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the messaging and collaboration data is one of email, calendar, or contact information.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the data network is a private network.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the single higher level request generated at the enterprise gateway server is produced by a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) proxy program executing at the enterprise gateway server.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) stub program executing on the remote gateway server receives the higher level request from the enterprise gateway server and converts the higher level request to the plurality of data requests.

10. A method comprising:

converting, at an enterprise gateway server, a plurality of data requests from remote communication devices for messaging and collaboration data into a single higher level request and transmitting the higher level request; and

receiving the higher level request from the enterprise gateway server at a corporate network connected to the enterprise gateway server via the Internet and converting the higher level request to the plurality of data requests, the corporate network using the converted plurality of data requests to query a messaging database that stores messaging and collaboration data corresponding to the plurality of data requests from the enterprise gateway server, and returning the results of the query to the enterprise gateway server.

11. The method of claim 10, further including encrypting the data transmitted over the Internet so as to form a virtual private network (VPN) between the enterprise gateway server and the remote gateway server.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the VPN is formed with a Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol (PPTP) connection.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the VPN is formed using the Internet Protocol Security (IPSEC) standard.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the messaging and collaboration data is one of email, calendar, or contact information.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the single higher level request generated at the enterprise gateway server is produced by a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) proxy program executing at the enterprise gateway server.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) stub program executing on the remote gateway server receives the higher level request from the enterprise gateway server and converts the higher level request to the plurality of data requests.